
NEW RECORDS OF SCIOMYZIDAE (DIPTERA) FROM THE NORTHWESTERN STATES AND PROVINCES¹

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Foote (1961) presented keys and distributional data for 70 species and subspecies of snail-killing sciomyzid flies known to occur in the Northwest. Extensive collecting during the summers of 1960 and 1962 in Idaho, western Montana, eastern British Columbia, and western Alberta produced additional habitat and distributional records for the area. Some 76 species and subspecies are now known to occur in this region. I wish to express my appreciation to the Department of Entomology of the University of Idaho for providing space and facilities for the study.

Pherbellia albocostata (Fallén)

This species, although widely distributed in the Northern Hemisphere, has been collected infrequently in North America. During mid-August, 1962, adults were common in the lodgepole pine forests of Banff National Park, Alberta. As most of the specimens were taken by sweeping over and around decaying coniferous logs, the larval stages probably are associated with terrestrial snails.

Pherbellia idahoensis Steyskal

This species, previously known from a few localities in northern Idaho, eastern Washington, and southern Oregon (Steyskal, 1961), was found to be common in many localities in Idaho, western Montana, and southern British Columbia. All adults were swept from vernal grass-sedge marshes that became dry by mid-summer.

Pherbellia quadrata Steyskal

As no information has been presented on the habitat distribution of this species, the following record may be of interest. On July 6, 1962, adults were swept from a small, vernal, partially shaded, sedge marsh located along State Highway 37 approximately 12.3 miles south of Rexford, Lincoln Co., Montana (new state record). At the time of collection very little standing water was present, and large numbers of *Lymnaea* sp. and *Aplexa hypnorum* (L.) snails were being stranded on the wet mud.

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Pteromicra inermis Steyskal

The discovery of a female of this species on August 11, 1962, along Highway 95 approximately 20 miles north of Kingsgate, British Columbia, represents a considerable range extension as it was previously known only from New York and Michigan. The fly was swept from a drying, sparsely vegetated, roadside drainage ditch, where numerous snails (*Lymnaea* sp., probably *L. palustris* Müller) were being stranded. Steyskal (1956) described *P. inermis* from adults reared from puparia in snail shells, and Berg (1961) reported that eggs routinely are deposited on shells of living snails.

Pteromicra leucothrix Melander

Apparently this species has not been reported since the type series was collected in July, 1919, on Orcas Island, Washington (Melander, 1920). One female was taken on June 12, another on July 19, 1960, by sweeping herbaceous hydrophilic vegetation growing around several small ponds lying near the Salmon River in the Stanley Basin of Custer Co., Idaho.

Pteromicra pectorosa (Hendel)

The discovery of adults on July 6, 1962, in a sedge marsh 12.3 miles south of Rexford, Lincoln Co., Montana, extends the range of this species into the Northwestern States. It was previously known in North America only from central New York, northern Manitoba, and northern California. *Pherbellia quadrata* was taken from the same habitat.

Antichaeta canadensis (Curran)

Previous records of this species are from the Midwestern States (Wisconsin, Michigan) and various Canadian provinces, (Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, Saskatchewan). The discovery of adults on June 18, 1962, in a sedge meadow lying north of Bear Lake in Bear Lake Co., Idaho, constitutes the southernmost western record. The adults were swept from a stand of *Eleocharis* sp. growing in a few inches of water.

Dictya texensis Curran

The discovery of adults on July 6, 1960, at Glens Ferry, Elmore Co., Idaho, by F. C. Harmston constitutes the first record for the Northwest. It is an abundant species in the Eastern, Midwestern, and Southwestern States.

Dictyacium firmum Steyskal

Although this species was recorded from northern Idaho by Foote (1961), information on its habitat preferences has not been available. On August 11, 1962, several adults were swept from rushes and sedges growing on the shaded east shore of Lake Algoma located 4.0 miles north of Cocolalla, Bonner Co., Idaho. The water of this small, senescent lake had receded considerably, stranding a variety of aquatic snails. All flies were taken in a habitat containing a mixture of small shrubs and shoreline herbs. None was obtained in numerous sweeps across the zone of emergent plants.

Tetanocera mallochi Steyskal

Although this species was reported from several localities in the Northwestern States and elsewhere by Steyskal (1959), nothing has been published on its habitat preferences. On August 10, 1962, a female was swept from grasses growing in a lodgepole pine forest located near Mt. Eisenhower in Banff National Park, Alberta. As the nearest water was several hundred yards away, *T. mallochi* larvae probably prey on terrestrial gastropods.

Tetanocera silvatica Meigen

As no information on the habitat distribution of this Holarctic species in North America has been published, the following observation may be of interest. Adults were abundant in the numerous grass-sedge marshes, both vernal and permanent, of Banff National Park, Alberta during mid-August, 1962. They were especially common in marshes that were partially shaded by coniferous trees and that had little open water.

Tetanocera spirifera Melander

The discovery of several adults on June 12, 1960, in the Stanley Basin of Custer Co., Idaho, fills in partially the gap between previous records from the Grand Teton National Park of Wyoming and scattered localities in Alberta and British Columbia. All flies were swept from hydrophilic herbage growing around several small ponds lying near the Salmon River.

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